

Application Serial No. 09/535,076
Response to First Office Action
Attorney Docket No. 0103490-165104
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Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the abstract as follows:

One aspect of the invention is directed to a system and method for providing an incentive to a customer of a store to return a shopping cart to a cart return location. ~~The cart return location, such as a cart corral, has a plurality of detection loops at an entrance to the corral. The system detects a change in inductance of the loops when a cart is returned to the cart corral and generates a cart return signal, which is indicative of a returned cart, in response to the change of inductance.~~ The system determines whether a cart is being removed from or returned to the cart corral ~~by use of the multiple detection loops.~~ Alternatively, a radio frequency identification system may be used to detect the return of a cart. ~~The store customer may utilize a frequent shopper, loyalty or reward card to provide a customer identification code to the system. Alternatively, other interfaces, such as a keypad, are provided for receiving the customer identification code.~~ The shopper is credited with points or credits in a frequent shopper or reward program for returning the shopping cart to the cart return location. ~~Visual and/or audible feedback indicative of an action, for example credit given, may be provided to the customer. An optional output interface may be used as a back-up mechanism or to provide rewards.~~ The cart return system, as disclosed may be readily configured to integrate with a wide range of existing, or new frequent shopper or loyalty programs.

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STATUS OF THE APPLICATION

- The abstract has been objected to as exceeding 150 words.
- Claims 1-16 have been rejected under obviousness-type double patenting.
- Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,708,782 to *Larson et al.* ("*Larson*").
- Claims 2-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Larson* in view of various combinations of U.S. Patent No. 6,154,879 to *Pare et al.* ("*Pare*") and U.S. Patent No. 4,623,877 to *Buckens* ("*Buckens*").